

News Release



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Hidden Treasures in Southern California State Parks


California State Parks are known for their campsites, trails and picnic areas – but they also contain surprises. Visitors can discover hidden treasures – if they know where to look.


LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Visitors who drive by **Malibu Lagoon State Beach** may not know that the **Adamson House** is part of the park. Visible from most places on the beach, but with entry only off the Pacific Coast Highway (Highway One), the Adamson House has been operated as a museum since 1983. The house, designed by a well-known architect, Stiles Clements, was constructed for the Adamson family during the summer in 1929. It is decorated with colorful Malibu tile from a nearby family enterprise during the '20s. The property's seven-car garage contains a variety of exhibits about Malibu's history – from Chumash fishing ground to movie star colony. One special feature of the two-story house is the elevator, which was installed specifically for Mrs. Adamson in 1958. From the house's backyard, visitors can watch surfers along the coast. For tour information, call (310) 456-8432. The park is located on Highway One upcoast of the Malibu Pier. Malibu Lagoon State Beach is a Watchable Wildlife site. 


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Located a short walk from the visitor center, **Malibu Creek State Park** has a beautiful **rock pool**, a scenic area where visitors can rock climb and enjoy the beauty of the area. The unique beauty of the rock pool has been filmed in many movies and TV shows. For more information, call the park at (818) 880-0350. The park is located four miles north of Highway One or four miles south of the 101 freeway on Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon Road in Calabasas. Malibu Creek State Park is a Watchable Wildlife site. 

In **Point Mugu State Park**, a short walk (3/4 of a mile) leads visitors to La Jolla Canyon to see a **waterfall** that runs much of the year. A little known area, but easy to get to, this hidden treasure provides a peaceful place to enjoy the sight and sounds of a waterfall in a beautiful setting. If you continue up the trail another ascending half-mile you will be rewarded by finding yourself in the beautiful native grasslands of La Jolla Valley. Look for fossils on the uphill side of the trail and continue on to a small pond, which is a great place to observe wildlife. For more information, call the park at (818) 880-0350. The park is located 15 miles south of Oxnard on Highway One. Point Mugu State Park is a Watchable Wildlife site. 

Within **Topanga State Park**, “**Mother Oak**” lives – a 200-year old oak tree that stands watch on a ridge. Grandmother Oak stood when the Tongva Indians lived in this area. Look for signs of the fire that Grandmother Oak withstood; imagine the changes that this amazing tree has witnessed. For more information, call the park at (310) 454-8212 or (310) 455-2465. The park can be reached from Highway 101 in Woodland Hills, then south on Topanga Canyon Road, seven miles to Entrada Road, then west to the park. The park is a Watchable Wildlife site. 

LOS ANGELES and VENTURA COUNTIES

Leo Carrillo State Park has **Nicholas Flats pond**, an area that includes amazing mortars in rock that were used by the Chumash tribe to prepare acorns. The area also features wildlife and beautiful views. The hike to the area is tough from the canyon campground due to a 1,400-foot elevation gain, but it is easily accessible by car. To reach it by car, take Pacific Coast Highway south from Leo Carrillo State Park to Decker Canyon Road. Follow Decker Canyon Road for approximately two miles, and then veer left onto Decker School Road. Follow Decker School Road to where it ends and park. Depending on the time of year and ocean conditions, Leo Carrillo State Park also has incredible marine life, including **tidepools** and **grunion runs**. For more information, call the park at (818) 880-0350 or (805) 986-8591. The park is located 28 miles northwest of Santa Monica on Highway One. The park is a Watchable Wildlife site. 

VENTURA COUNTY

San Buenaventura State Beach has “**red tide**,” when the bioluminescent plankton glows in the waves at night. If it is a strong red tide as you walk along the beach at night, your footprints will glow. This seasonal phenomenon can be viewed from the beach. The beach also has a “**hidden lagoon**” – **Alessandro lagoon** - which is a great spot for bird watching. For more information, call the park at (805) 648-3918 or (805) 899-1400. The beach is located in Ventura. From Highway 101, take the Seaward exit, then right on Pierpont Boulevard.

Discover more about California State Parks by visiting the department website at www.parks.ca.gov.

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